

From: Stop AnimalCruelty
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2004 11:20 AM
To: NIEHS ICCVAM
Subject: PLEASE STOP ANIMAL TESTING

Dr. William Stokes, Director
NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
P.O. Box 12233, MD EC-17
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Stokes,

It's ironic how we consider ourselves to be the best country in the world - and have very little shame admitting it freely - but that we still use outdated, medieval methods for testing products. You have to be living in a cave to NOT know that all household products should not be anywhere near the eyes. Even my 4-year-old knows that! To actually have alternatives in place, but to stubbornly refuse to use them - or expect to use them, but still require animal ones - is completely and utterly beyond my understanding. We can put humans on the moon, but we still need to torture animals to survive. A shame on this nation, indeed! I travel often and have many friends from other parts of the world. When it comes to the United States' treatment of its FELLOW mammals, we are, 100%, the lowest on the totem pole for industrialized countries.

I would like you to implement the following:

- ICCVAM should follow the example set by European countries that accept the results of these *in vitro* methods, alone or in combination, to classify severely irritating and corrosive chemicals, and should eliminate proposals for "confirmatory" testing on animals.
- ICCVAM's background-review documents should clearly address the limitations of the current animal test for eye irritation, including its subjectivity, reproducibility, and its over- and under-prediction rate. ICCVAM should not presume to "validate" a non-animal method against an animal test that has never been properly validated itself.
- ICCVAM should take the time to learn that these tests are being used safely and effectively by the industry today.
- ICCVAM should stop dragging its heels and setting up obstacles to the acceptance and use of non-animal test methods in the U.S.

I look forward to the day when children say to their parents: "I can't believe that when you and Daddy were young, they used to test on animals."

Thank you very much for your consideration. I know you'll do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizen and Mother

The animals of the world exist for their own reasons. They were not made for humans any more than black people were made for white, or women created for men.

- Alice Walker